

Places to Visit on Campus

Admission Office

This is your chance to ask questions about submitting your application on time. These are the people who will look at your application and make the initial decisions about your qualifications. Make sure you're aware of deadlines and necessary documents you'll need to attach to your application, such as high school transcripts, letters of reference and essays.

Financial Aid Office

Not only can the Financial Aid office help you locate scholarships, grants, work-study and student loan opportunities, but they can also help you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and answer important questions about ways to pay for college. Ask how and where you would make your tuition payments.

Academic Advising

Each college or professional school has a different method for providing academic advising. Find out which departments offer the classes you'll need to achieve your degree.

On-Campus Child Care

Students who are also parents may want to inquire about child care. Even if you have already established care for your children while you're in class, you may find great deals on fees or hours that fit your class schedule.

Career Services

Knowing what classes to take is only one step in the process. Find the Career Services office and visit it frequently once you begin school. Here you can learn the many ways you can market your degree in the workforce.

Housing Office

If you're able to live on campus, be sure to stop by the Housing office to learn about the dormitories, meal plans and other important information. Ask the office what items are allowed in the dorms so you can begin stocking your dorm room ahead of time, stretching out the cost.

Parking and Transportation Office

If you plan to have a car on campus, you'll have to learn the procedures for parking. This may be an added expense you'll want to consider in your budget. Also ask about public transportation, like bus routes to/from campus and on campus.

Student Life Office

If you're visiting a campus large enough to offer activities, events and clubs, don't miss the Student Life office. This is a great place to learn how to get involved, meet new people and ask current students about campus life.

Student Union or Common Area

Many schools have a building designated for students to use in between classes. Typically known as the Student Union, this building often has restaurants, important offices such as the Student ID office, post office and even some banking services. If you see a school newspaper, be sure to grab it to read later so you can learn more about life on campus.

Library

Visit the campus library and take note of the operating hours. The library may offer free Wi-Fi and may be a resource for you during your time on campus. Also, take note of smaller, departmental libraries that may offer specialized resources for specific classes or assignments.

Health Clinic

Learn what options are available to you if you get sick while at school. Ask how much treatment costs. Many schools offer health insurance for students.

Surrounding Community

Explore off campus to locate important businesses and services you may need. Get a feel for the safety of the area and see if it's easy to get around.

Campus Visit Checklist

While on your campus visit, talk to as many people as you can and get a feel for the atmosphere. Don't pass up a chance to ask questions. Use this campus visit checklist to assist you during your campus tours.

- Visit the school's website to learn how to set up a campus tour. Tours are usually scheduled throughout the day, so your family may wish to plan the day around the tour.
- Schedule interviews with campus officials in admission, academic advising, housing and in your field of study. Ask about the number of classes you should take each semester, meal plans and parking.
- Pick up a school newspaper to get an idea of the campus culture. Drop in at the Student Life office to ask about student organizations.
- Grab any financial aid or application forms you may need. Ask about the school's scholarship and FAFSA deadlines.
- If possible, sit in on a class that interests you. Talk to coaches or sponsors of activities that interest you.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what activities are available. This is also a good way to get a feel for job opportunities in the area.
- Eat in the cafeteria or around campus to check out the dining options available to you.
- Visit the dorms if you plan to live on campus. Ask about dorm security practices and for a list of what you can and can't bring with you to the dorm.
- Talk with current students about campus life and ask questions.
- Ask someone in the health clinic about their hours and what services they provide.
- Visit the college bookstore to price new and used books.
- Stop by the library and ask about their checkout procedures.
- Do you need child care? Ask about campus services in the area.

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Getting Answers on Campus

Coming to campus for a visit is easy enough. Leaving with all your questions answered can be a challenge. Take this opportunity to list questions you may have for each department you visit.

Admission Office

1. What are my chances of being admitted?
2. _____
3. _____

Financial Aid Office

1. When are priority deadlines for school scholarships and the FAFSA?
2. _____
3. _____

Academic Advising

1. How many classes should I take per semester?
2. _____
3. _____

On-Campus Child Care

1. Do you give priority to students and do you offer any discounts on tuition?
2. _____
3. _____

Career Services

1. What is the average starting salary for someone with my major?
2. _____
3. _____

Health Clinic

1. What types of services do you offer?
2. _____
3. _____

Student Life Office

1. How many student organizations do you have and how can I get involved?
2. _____
3. _____

Parking and Transportation Office

1. Can I take the bus to class if I live off-campus?
2. _____
3. _____

Library

1. Is there free Wi-Fi in the library?
2. _____
3. _____

Housing Office

1. Am I required to live on-campus as a freshman?
2. _____
3. _____